GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4173
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
REDUCTION IN ISD RATES
Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to reduce the ISD rates to Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b): As per the Section 11(2) of TRAI Act 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs is vested with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which has put ISD tariff under forbearance and operators are free to fix ISD Tariff as per their perception of the market. The two telecom service providing Companies, under Department of Telecom, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have recently reduced their ISD rates to Gulf countries from Rs. 24 per minute to Rs. 18 per minute, effective from 10-04-2004 and as of now there is no proposal under consideration of these two Companies to further reduce these rates.